

Tis the season! The Christmas holiday season is well upon us. At this time of year, it can become easy to feel and get overwhelmed. It seems that we spend so much time trying to get everything just right, and then everything is over with in a blink of eye. When we were young, time seemed to go by very slow. It seemed like we would never turn 16. Now that I'm in my 50's I can't get the clock to slow down. I wonder if unplugging the cord would help? Any Ideas? It's best to remember there is no ideal Christmas, but only the one we can make out of our reflections, values, desires, affections, and traditions.

Have you gotten that perfect present yet for that special someone? I hope you have been on the ball a bit better than me. This year seems to find me not quite so organized. And shopping...how many of you were at the mall the day after Thanksgiving? There were rows and rows of cars and people standing in all kinds of lines for the special gift. As for me, after surviving cooking, I was a couch potato. But now, I need to get with it. I need all kinds of ideas on how to begin a special holiday season, let's get together and share our thoughts and traditions! We probably go through so much trying to find the best gifts and leave the best experiences because we quite don't know how to put our love into words. How can we? Love is Love!

If you are like me it's not the presents that make Christmas special, it's things like Christmas carols, Christmas television commercials, and time with our families. Christmas carols are one of the season's special gifts that give us so much warmth and pleasure. Commercials are another special enjoyment. I love some of them. Many of them either make you laugh out loud or leave you feeling warm and fuzzy. However, the most important and often complicated, because of our time schedule, is spending time with the people in our lives that we love. We are not promised tomorrow, so be sure to take the time this Christmas holiday to hug and give of yourself. Without these simple special gifts the season would leave you feeling like a bah-hum bug. It is the Christmas spirit the warmth that comes to the hearts of men that make Christmas.

I do not spend much time listening to the news. The headlines seem always the same and can bring me down really fast, so I try my best to avoid it. But, this year I've heard that people right here in America want us to stop using the word "Christmas". Well, I really don't care too much what they think! Christmas is Christmas, and will always be Christmas to me! After all isn't "Christ" the reason for the season? Sometimes I worry. Why is it so important to some people to try to take Christ and religion out of our society? Ladies be on your toes these are people we need to watch out for.

Christmas! The very word, ideas, traditions brings joy to our hearts. It doesn't matter how we dread going to Wal-Mart and the long lines or Publix for that special ham for dinner. When Christmas day comes we all get that warm feeling we had as a young child. The same warmth that enfolds our hearts and our homes. Whatever else be lost among the years, Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing: "Whatever doubts, fears, Let us hold close for one day remembering it's the joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas." [W.C. Jones]

Merry Christmas!